

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 /021 W

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P 181200Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5576

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUJUMBURA 0708

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SELF-HELP FUNDS (SSH)

REF: STATE 204257

1. HOLD UP OF CHECK(S) FOR STILL OUTSTANDING SUM OF 2,493 DOLLARS FROM BURUNDI GOVERNMENT FOR COLD STORAGE PROJECT IS IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS, TO WHOM WE HAVE MADE REPEATED REPRESENTATIONS, SAY THAT BEFORE SIGNATURE, THEY OBTAINED FINANCE MINISTRY APPROVAL FOR THE AMENDMENTS TO THE COLD STORAGE PROJECT AGREEMENT WHICH COMMITTED THE GRB TO PROVIDE THIS SUM; BUT SINCE THEN THEY HAVE HAD NO SUCCESS IN GETTING THE CHECK, WHICH MUST BE SIGNED BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE HIMSELF, AS ARE ALL BURUNDI GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS. CHECK ISSUANCE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN CAUGHT UP IN SLOW FINMIN BUREAUCRATIC MAZE.

2. I CALL ON MINISTER OF FINANCE MPOZAGARA LAST WEEK TO URGE IMMEDIATE ACTION ON THE CHECK. I HAVE ALREADY TOLD BOTH MINISTRIES THAT THE CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1 OR THE EQUIPMENT SHIPMENT SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER WILL BE SUSPENDED. MPOZAGARA, COOL AND DISTANT AS USUAL, PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER, FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF A WRITTEN ACCOUNT OF THE PROJECT'S HISTORY, WHICH WE HAVE SINCE PROVIDED. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR IT.

3. GREGOIRE REPLY TO SEGALL'S JULY 29 LETTER SENT AUGUST 17.
ISOM

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